

# SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

106th Congress  
1st Session

Vote No. 328

October 15, 1999, 9:20 a.m.  
Page S-12659 Temp. Record

## VA-HUD APPROPRIATIONS/Conference, Passage

**SUBJECT:** Conference report to accompany the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000 . . . H.R. 2684. Agreeing to the report.

### ACTION: CONFERENCE REPORT AGREED TO, 93-5

**SYNOPSIS:** The conference report to accompany H.R. 2684, the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for fiscal year 2000, will provide a net of \$99.453 billion in new budget authority, including emergency funding and \$4.2 billion in advance appropriations for fiscal year 2001 for Section 8 housing contract renewals, as requested by the President), which is \$4.190 billion more than provided last year and \$150 million less than requested. Funds will not be spent to implement the Kyoto Protocol. The bill will appropriate \$19.006 billion for veterans medical care (\$1.7 billion more than requested by the Clinton/Gore Administration; for related debate, see vote Nos. 285-286). Details are provided below.

- Department of Veterans Affairs, \$44.335 billion (\$23.397 billion mandatory and \$20.938 billion discretionary), including \$23.555 billion for the Veterans Benefits Administration and \$19.387 billion for the Veterans Health Administration.
- Housing and Urban Development, \$25.951 billion, including: \$10.834 billion to renew expiring Section 8 housing contracts (\$4.2 billion of which will be fiscal year 2001 advance appropriations; if all expiring Section 8 vouchers are renewed next year, these advance appropriations will cause a shortfall in next year's bill of more than \$8 billion; the Administration requested advance funding); funding will not be provided for new Section 8 vouchers; \$4.8 billion for Community Development Block Grants; \$310 million for Drug Elimination Grants; and \$1.6 billion for the HOME Investment Partnership Program.
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), \$13.653 billion, including \$2.331 billion for the Space Station Program.
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), \$7.592 billion, including \$1.4 billion for the Superfund Program.

(See other side)

YEAS (93)				NAYS (5)		NOT VOTING (2)	
Republican (52 or 95%)		Democrats (41 or 95%)		Republicans (3 or 5%)	Democrats (2 or 5%)	Republicans (0)	Democrats (2)
Abraham	Hatch	Akaka	Kerry	Kyl	Bayh		Dodd- <sup>3</sup>
Allard	Helms	Baucus	Kohl	McCain	Feingold		Kennedy- <sup>2</sup>
Ashcroft	Hutchinson	Biden	Landrieu	Voinovich			
Bennett	Hutchison	Bingaman	Lautenberg				
Bond	Inhofe	Boxer	Leahy				
Brownback	Jeffords	Breaux	Levin				
Bunning	Lott	Bryan	Lieberman				
Burns	Lugar	Byrd	Lincoln				
Campbell	Mack	Cleland	Mikulski				
Chafee	McConnell	Conrad	Moynihan				
Cochran	Murkowski	Daschle	Murray				
Collins	Nickles	Dorgan	Reed				
Coverdell	Roberts	Durbin	Reid				
Craig	Roth	Edwards	Robb				
Crapo	Santorum	Feinstein	Rockefeller				
DeWine	Sessions	Graham	Sarbanes				
Domenici	Shelby	Harkin	Schumer				
Enzi	Smith, Bob (I)	Hollings	Torricelli				
Fitzgerald	Smith, Gordon	Inouye	Wellstone				
Frist	Snowe	Johnson	Wyden				
Gorton	Specter	Kerrey					
Gramm	Stevens						
Grams	Thomas						
Grassley	Thompson						
Gregg	Thurmond						
Hagel	Warner						

#### EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

#### SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea  
AN—Announced Nay  
PY—Paired Yea  
PN—Paired Nay

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), \$3.351 billion, of which \$2.780 billion will be for disaster relief (\$2.580 billion of that amount will be emergency funding to provide aid to victims of Hurricane Floyd; only \$300 million will be provided in anticipation of natural disasters that will likely occur in FY 2000; the recent practice has been to spend billions of dollars each year on disaster relief; in most cases, disaster assistance that is not budgeted for in the regular appropriations bills is given in supplemental bills as emergency funding that need not be offset).

- National Science Foundation, \$3.912 billion.

- Corporation for National and Community Service (AmeriCorps), \$434.5 million (for related debate, see vote No. 286).

- Other provisions include the following: Congress supports improving health care treatment for veterans in rural areas, and a report will be prepared on how such care may be improved; funds from this Act will not be used to promulgate a final regulation to implement changes in the payment of pesticide tolerance processing fees; and it is the sense of Congress that honor guards at funerals is a right that veterans have earned.

**Those favoring** the conference report contended:

This bill has broad, bipartisan support. Key features include that it will increase veterans health care funding by \$1.7 billion (which is the largest increase ever and which is greatly needed), it will provide \$2.5 billion in emergency aid for victims of Hurricane Floyd, to whom our hearts go out, and it will provide full funding for NASA. Our main concern is that the welfare housing accounts are underfunded. The President asked that we put off a large part of the problem by providing advance appropriations for \$4.2 billion of the expiring Section 8 housing contract renewals, and we unfortunately ended up honoring that request due to budget constraints. As a consequence, we will start next year's bill with a shortfall of more than \$8 billion for assisted housing. We note that we are having these budget problems even though we are not adding new housing units, and we are having these problems at a time when affordable housing is becoming rare. Our hope is that the President will work with us to solve assisted housing problems next year. For now, we are pleased to vote in favor of this conference report.

**While favoring** the conference report, some Senators expressed the following reservations:

We appreciate that this bill contains a large increase for veterans' health care, but it still is not enough. Also, we wish that conferees had retained the Senate amendment on atomic veterans (see vote No. 292). Overall, we support this bill.

**No arguments were expressed in opposition to the conference report.**